

Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, June 8, 1797, The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JAMES MADISON¹ J. MSS.

¹ Endorsed: "No copy retained. The above is the sum."

Philad. June 8, 97.

Amdmt of address puttg France on equal footing clogged with demand for spoliation, which tho' right in principle, may enable Exve to make it *sine qua non*, to indulge their own disposns to rupture.

Repr. have voted complete & man frigates, go on with fortfycons. Will prob pass bill from Senate prohibg exportn arms & ammunition & preventg our citizens from engaging in armed vessels.

Bills for cavalry—artillery—9 vessels—provnl army. Will pass Senate by 18 to 12.

Permittg merchts to arm negativd, in commee Senate 3 to 2. Bingham's informa that merchts did not wish it. Some of the Senate for it.

Smith & Harper proposed permit merchts to arm yesterday.

Buonaparte's late victory & panic of Brit govmt produced sensible effect here. Before that the party partly from inclinn partly devotn to Exve. willing to meet hostilities from France. Now will not force that nail but doing so much of most innocent things as may veil the folly

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or boldness of convening Congress, leave more offensive measures to issue of negocn or their own next meeting.

Difficult to say if Republicans have majority. Votes carrd both ways by from 1. to 6. Our 3 renegadoes make the difference. Clay firm. Never separated but on the vote mentd in former lre.

Paine expected.—Nothing of Monroe.

P. M. Represent. have decided 46 to 34. yt W. India trade shall not arm. Hence augur well of other resolns. Senate have voted on 2d. reading the 9. vessels. Cost 60 M. D. each these bills originating in Senate & going under their sanction to H. Repr in so vibratory a state, have mischievous effect. Expect to rise Saturday 17th. I shall probably be with you 26th or 27th.